



Elder  
Abuse is  
NOT ok!

# You have a right to be safe in your home & your community

## What is Elder Abuse?

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines elder abuse as “a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person.”

## Who?

Elder Abuse is commonly committed by family members, although friends, caregivers, and service providers may also abuse an elder.

## Common warning signs of Elder Abuse

- Signs of depression, fear, anxiety, withdrawal, or confusion
- Unexplained changes in financial circumstances
- Unexplained injuries
- A noticeable change in behaviour and appearance

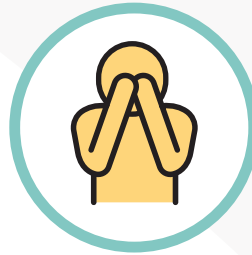
## Types of Elder Abuse

Some types of elder abuse are a crime, and some types are not; it can be difficult to determine.



**Physical Abuse**

Physical abuse is the rough handling of an elder or physical contact with an elder that intimidates or causes physical discomfort, pain, or injury.



**Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse is any sexual activity directed toward the elder that occurs without their full knowledge and freely given consent.



**Financial Abuse**

Financial abuse is the illegal or unauthorized use of an elder's financial resources to the benefit of someone other than the elder.



**Neglect**

Neglect refers to the failure or refusal to meet an elder's basic needs; whether this is intentional or unintentional.



**Psychological Abuse**

Psychological abuse refers to verbal or non-verbal actions that undermine an elder's dignity and causes them mental and emotional suffering. This type of abuse may include humiliation, intimidation, threats, and insults.

## Help is available.

Call the Family Violence Helpline at **1-866-223-7775** for support and referrals.

**Call 911 or your local RCMP detachment** if you or an elder you know is in immediate danger.

Contact the NWT Seniors' Society at 1-800-661-0878 or 867-920-7444 for more information about hosting a Creating Safe Communities for Seniors workshop.

